

JARED TALBOT OF TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

By

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Jared Talbot of Taunton, Massachusetts is the immigrant Talbot ancestor for myself and several thousand other Americans named Talbot. He married Sarah Andrews in Taunton on April 1, 1664. No record of Jared has been found before this date. Jared and Sarah settled near Pale Brook in the eastern part of Taunton that later became Raynham. Four of their six children survived childhood and married: Jared, Elizabeth, Samuel, and Nathaniel. In 1675-6 he commanded some soldiers in King Philip's War between the English settlers and the Indians. In 1683 they moved to the Taunton South Purchase which later became Dighton. By tradition, he built the first frame house within the present boundaries of Dighton. This house may be part of the Fisher-Baylies house which is still standing. He was both a farmer and a mariner and died in October 1686, aged sixty-four or younger. His widow Sarah survived him by at least seven years.

This paper presents every reference to Jared Talbot that I have found in the original records. These references are presented as a chronology of his life with most references followed by my commentary. Many of the early records have been lost. The Taunton town records were destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1838 that leveled the center of Taunton [Hurd 1883, 760]. The Taunton First Church records were taken by Reverend John Foster when he left town after being dismissed in 1799 [Taunton Daily Gazette, July 16, 1904].

Following the chronology of Jared's life are photocopies of his probate papers, seven maps, a brief listing of other (unrelated) Talbots that appear in the early records, and a list of source materials.

I have included background material on the history of both Taunton and Dighton, Massachusetts to help set the scene for where Jared lived. His Talbot descendants stayed in Dighton for nearly a century before branching out across America. Most of this background material is in the *History of Bristol County, Massachusetts* by D. Hamilton Hurd (1883) and the *History of Taunton, Massachusetts* by Samuel Hopkins Emery, D.D. (1893).

Before starting the chronology of his life, a few preliminaries may prove helpful.

PRELIMINARIES

Spelling. There was no attempt to standardize spelling in early New England. I have seen the spellings Jarit, Jehud, Garad, Garit, Gerard, and Jared. The last name was spelled Talbut, Taulbut, Talbot, Talbert, Talbutt, Tolbut, Talbit. Many considered it a sign of intelligence to spell the same word different ways. Often a name was spelled different ways in a document written by a single clerk.

Money. Before the American Revolution, the British system of pounds (£), shillings (s), and pence (d) was used. There were twenty shillings in a pound, and twelve pence in a shilling. In reality, there was a severe shortage of hard money in early New England, and most financial transactions were done by barter. For example, Nathaniel Fisher, the first minister of Dighton, complained that too much of his salary was being paid in rum.

Dates. Many dates before 1752 and between January 1 and March 24 were written in the double-dated form. For example, the birth of Jared's first son is recorded as March 20, 1666/7 meaning March 20, 1666 (Old Style) or March 20, 1667 (New Style). The Old Style calendar was the Julian calendar authorized by Julius Ceasar in 46 B.C (he named July after himself). This calendar had a leap year every four years, and the new year began on March 25. Thus March 24, 1700 was followed by March 25, 1701 and September, October, November, and December were considered the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth months respectively. This calendar had a slight error, and if the calendar were not corrected, eventually it would be snowing in July, and hot in December. Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 authorized the Gregorian calendar (the New Style and our current calendar) in which there is no leap year in century years unless the century year is divisible by 400. Thus 1900 was not a leap year, but 2000 will be. Also, the beginning of the new year was moved from March 25 to January 1. Catholic countries adopted the new style calendar in 1582, and England imposed the new calendar on her American colonies in 1752.

Slaves. Slavery was abolished in Massachusetts in 1780, and before that a number of early Talbots were slave owners. Most slaves were blacks and a few were Indians. The births, marriages, and deaths of slaves were not entered into town records, and gravestones were not placed over their graves. For most, the only record of their existence is their appearance in the estate inventories of their deceased owners. Captain Jared Talbot's inventory, made on March 15, 1733/4 in Dighton, includes his negro John at £100, his negro Jeffery at £90, and his negro woman Hette at £90. The inventory also lists forty-one sheep at £32 16s., nine cows and heifers at £71 15s., and five geese at £1. Thus each slave had the same value as approximately one hundred sheep, or twelve cows, or five hundred geese.

After slavery was abolished, many remained on their former owner's farms and assumed their last names. Reverend Nathaniel Fisher's former slave Tom Fisher remained for many years at the Fisher

homestead in Dighton after Reverend Fisher's death in 1777 [Federal Census 1790]. Some early blacks in Massachusetts named Talbot took their name from their Talbot owners in Dighton.

Gravestones and Graveyards. There is nearly a complete absence of gravestones for the Talbots during their first one hundred years in Massachusetts. Twenty adult Talbots probably died in Dighton during this period (1664-1764), and there are gravestones for only two of them: Hannah Talbot who died June 4, 1731 and Lt. Joseph Talbot who died November 24, 1764. Both gravestones are at the old Dighton cemetery on Elm Street.

Sally Beckwith of Dighton and I have spent over five hundred hours probing the old Dighton cemetery with pitchforks, knives, screwdrivers, and trowels (no shovels!) searching for gravestones that may have fallen over and become buried. Gravestone inventories of this graveyard contain a total of 111 different gravestones [Reed c. 1880; Bowman 1914; Sprague 1957]. Each inventory missed a few stones, but apparently no stone was missed by all three. We located all except the stone for Josiah Stephens (d. July 9, 1784). Both his headstone and footstone were in the 1957 inventory. Five stones were buried (Sarah Pitts d. 1718, Hannah Talbot d. 1731, Mary Morey d. 1732, Nathaniel Beal d. 1750, and Pedey Richmond d. 1808). Two stones were shattered almost beyond recognition (Abner Beal d. 1748, and Rachel Howe d. 1750). We did not find a single new gravestone that was not in any of the three inventories (the Sarah Pitts headstone was not in any of the inventories, but her footstone marked SARAH PITTS was in the Reed inventory). I am convinced there are no more buried gravestones in the old Dighton cemetery, and the three inventories together give a complete accounting of all the marked gravestones ever there.

This graveyard is on a small hill across the road from where Captain Jared Talbot's house once stood. In the fall, it is overgrown with hay and the tips of the headstones can be seen poking up above the hay. Most graves have a headstone over the deceased's head and a small footstone over their feet. As was the custom in most early New England graveyards, the graves are aligned on an east-west axis with the head to the west and the feet to the east. The devout Puritans believed that Christ on his second coming would be coming from the east, and they wanted to rise up from their graves facing him ("for as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be", Matthew 24:27). The graveyard covers several acres, and there are sometimes gaps of fifteen to twenty feet between headstones. We discovered fieldstones, with no carving on them, perfectly lined up in these gaps between the standing headstones. The fieldstones are flat, one to two feet across, and set on edge with their top edge at ground level or several inches below ground level. These sunken fieldstones usually are in pairs, with a headstone and a footstone aligned on an east-west axis. The unmarked fieldstones clearly are marking graves. I estimate that there are three to four hundred graves marked only by these fieldstones. Most of the early settlers of Dighton are in the old cemetery on Elm street lined up under these unmarked fieldstones.

The practice of using unmarked fieldstones was one of custom, and was not related to a person's wealth. Captain Jared Talbot was perhaps the wealthiest man in Dighton when he died in 1734, yet there are no marked gravestones for either him or his wife Rebekah. The introduction of marked gravestones in this country parallels their introduction in England where seventeenth and early eighteenth-century gravestones are also rare. One reason for the scarcity of marked stones is that a limited number of people could read. Also, some of the austere early Puritan ministers were against imagery of any form and discouraged the use of marked stones.

There are forty-six known cemeteries in Dighton [Lane 1962, cemetery map; Varley, private communication (1986)]. Nearly all are small family graveyards set in the corner of a field with a stone wall around them. They often have five to ten stones, and frequently are one field width back from the road and one field width from the farmhouse. I have visited thirty-five of them. The only pre-Revolutionary gravestone in these family yards is the George Gooding (d. January 1, 1712) stone. This is the oldest gravestone in Dighton. The next oldest Dighton stone is the Thomas King (d. March 30, 1713) stone at the old cemetery on Elm Street. Both are primitive with crude letters chiseled into large fieldstones. The oldest carved slate stone in Dighton is the Sarah Pitts (d. May 15, 1718) stone at the old Elm Street cemetery.

King Philip and the Indians. During most of Jared's life in Massachusetts, the local Indian leader was King Philip, the great sachem of the Wampanoag Indian Nation that ruled southeastern Massachusetts. King Philip was the name given him by the white man; his Indian name was Metacomet. During 1675-76, King Philip's War raged across southern New England pitting the English settlers against King Philip and his Nipmuc allies of central Massachusetts. This was a savage war with an estimated ten percent of the adult English male settlers being slain. Gunpowder was scarce, and the General Court at Plymouth passed an ordinance that a gun could only be fired at an Indian or a wolf. The Indians, of course, lost and their presence in southern New England rapidly declined. Some migrated to the North, some were taken to Europe and sold as slaves, and others remained as slaves in Massachusetts. The inventory of Josiah Talbot's estate in Dighton in 1754 lists an Indian slave named Tom in addition to his six black slaves. King Philip was slain in 1676 and his head exhibited on a pole in Plymouth for twenty years. The last mention of an Indian in the Dighton records was "Hanna Tew, a female Indian, died Dec. 16, 1828" [Dighton Vital Records, 4:440].

Plymouth Colony. In its early years, Taunton belonged to Plymouth Colony which effectively began when the Mayflower dropped anchor in Plymouth harbor in 1620. The colony was administered by a governor and several assistants. Laws were enacted by the General Court which met four times a year in Plymouth. Voting at the General Court were the governor, his assistants, and several deputies from each town. On June 1, 1685 the colony was divided into Plymouth,

Bristol, and Barnstable counties, so that certain judicial and administrative matters could be handled closer to home. Taunton is the county seat of Bristol County. The colony ceased to exist in 1693 when it was absorbed into the much larger and more populous Massachusetts Bay Colony on its northern border.

The South Purchase and the Great Lots. In 1672 several prominent men of Plymouth Colony, acting as agents on behalf of eighty-seven Taunton associates, purchased two tracts of land for \$273 from King Philip [Emery 1893, 119]. Most associates subsequently paid their share of the purchase cost and other costs (such as for surveying) and became proprietors meaning they were entitled to lands parcelled out in the future divisions of the commonly-held land.

The tracts together were known as the South Purchase and formed a section of land four miles by four miles on the west bank of the Taunton River ("Great River" in the early deeds) and south of the original Taunton purchase. The South Purchase became part of Taunton after its purchase from the Indians.

On September 21, 1674 the proprietors chose a committee to survey and divide some of the land in the South Purchase [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 10]. The outbreak of King Philip's War in 1675 must have delayed the survey and land division which did not occur until about 1677 [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 31]. At that time their purchase was divided into eighty-five Great Lots, and each proprietor drew one lot. These lots were long thin strips of land two miles long and sixteen rods wide. The "foot" of each lot was at the Great River with the "head" two miles to the west (see map on page 44). The Taunton River flows southward here and the Great Lots were all lined up with the long sides of each Great Lot having a compass heading of West 19.5 Degrees North. Today, the east-west roads of Dighton still have this compass heading as do most of the numerous stone walls that mark the ancient Great Lot property lines. Great Lot number 1 was at the southern boundary of the South Purchase, up against the town of Swansea. The Lot numbers increased going northward up to 85 which was near the Three Mile River that separated the South Purchase from Old Taunton. It was called the Three Mile River because it is three miles from the center of Taunton. In addition to the 160-acre Great Lots, the survey laid out eighty-five Little Lots up along the Three Mile River, each consisting of four acres.

Seven east-west roads, each three rods wide, were also laid out between some of the Great Lots [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 31, 35]. There was one north-south road (called the Country Road in the early deeds) that ran close to the west bank of the Taunton River. This road had been an Indian path and later became the Taunton to Bristol stage route.

The surveying rod today is sixteen feet, six inches but in early times its length would vary slightly depending on the type of terrain being surveyed. Hezekiah Hoar, in a South Purchase deed dated May 10, 1703, states that the length of the rod used was

seventeen feet, three inches [Bristol County Deeds, 17:224]. Another example of the seventeen-foot, three-inch rod in Dighton is the rectangular grid of stones in the front "new" section of the old Dighton cemetery on Elm Street. They mark burial plot boundaries that were for sale around the time of the Civil War. A map giving the price and dimension of each plot is at the Dighton Historical Society, and the plots were one rod wide. The distance between the corner stones of these plots is precisely seventeen feet, three inches.

One method for estimating the length of the rod used in the original 1677 division of Great Lots is to measure the distances between the east-west roads in Dighton. Center Street is between Lots 63 and 64; Brook Street between 47 and 48; Main between 34 and 35; and Hart between 20 and 21 [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 35, 47]. From US Geological Survey topographical maps, I estimate there are 11,704 feet between Center Street and Hart Street. There are forty-three Great Lots between them (21 to 63) plus three highways (half of Center Street, Brook Street, Main Street, and half of Hart Street). Since each Great Lot was sixteen rods wide, and each highway was three rods wide, that means the 11,704 feet consists of $(43 \times 16) + 3 \times 3 = 697$ rods. Thus each rod would be $11,704 / 697 = 16.79$ feet or sixteen feet, ten inches if my measurements were exactly correct.

Most of the eighty-five proprietors who drew lot numbers had no intention of ever settling in the South Purchase. They hoped to sell, at a profit, the lot they had drawn to one of the few proprietors who actually wanted to settle there and was buying up adjacent lots to form a farm. The early deeds show a great flurry of activity as settlers tried to assemble a reasonably-shaped farm out of these thin little strips of land.

Early Town Formation. The original New England towns were generally much larger than their present size. The original Taunton purchase (c. 1638) from the Indians was sixty-four square miles. After the North Purchase (1668) and the South Purchase (1672) were added, Taunton had grown to 150 square miles. In 1711, the North Purchase section of Taunton split off to form Norton. In 1712, the South Purchase section split off to form Dighton. In 1731, an eastern section split off to form Raynham, and in 1735 a southern section split off to form Berkley. Today Taunton consists of 49.6 square miles. The early colonies had a law that every town had to have a meetinghouse (also used as the church in addition to town meetings) and a minister. When enough people had settled into an outlying section of a town to pay the salary of a minister, they would petition to form their own precinct (parish). The new precinct would have its own meetinghouse and minister, but was still part of the original town. The petition would have heart-rending tales of the great hardships endured by having to travel great distances with their wives and young children to the existing meetinghouse. Generally, a few years after a precinct was formed, they would petition to split off and form a separate town, and the petition was usually granted.

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Formation of Dighton. On October 11, 1708 the settlers in the South Purchase, together with their neighbors living across the Taunton River on its eastern side, petitioned Governor Joseph Dudley of Massachusetts for permission to form a South Precinct within Taunton. The petition read in part: "Being under great disadvantages by reason of remoteness from the Meeting House in the center of the old Township, many of us liveing six and seven and some of us eight miles and some more then so distant therefrom, so that it is impossible for us to carry our whole families with us to meeting. And those that are aged and crasey among us can seldom repayr thither, and while the heads of families are absent, the younger persons are exposed to prophayn the Sabbath att home".

On February 25, 1708/9 the petitioners from both sides of the river agreed that the new meetinghouse would be on the west side of the river, and an agreement was reached giving certain concessions and assurances to the petitioners on the east side of the river. The main points of this agreement were:

1. The precinct members on the east side of the river were free to split off and form their own precinct or township at any time.
2. Residents on the east side of the river do not have to pay any costs for the building of the new meetinghouse.
3. Jared Talbot will maintain a pathway from the ferry boat landing to the meetinghouse for the use of the residents living east of the river. The pathway will pass from the river south of Jared Talbot's house to the country road (Elm Street today). NOTE: There is a low dip in the ridge on the western side of Route 138 and three hundred feet north of Chase Avenue that probably was part of this pathway (see map on page 44).
4. Residents on both sides of the river will pay equally for the construction and maintenance of a ferry boat.
5. The meetinghouse will be on the "west side of ye way, over against Talbot's new (now?) dwelling house, and adjoining said way".

On September 16, 1709 the House of Representatives granted permission for the formation of the South Precinct within Taunton, and stated that the meetinghouse "shall be set on the west side of the way near Capt. Jerard Talbutts house".

On October 27, 1710 the South Precinct petitioned to become a township. Permission was granted, and the township of Dighton was incorporated May 30, 1712.

Dighton was named in honor of Frances Deighton, wife of Richard Williams who was an original proprietor of Taunton and very prominent in Taunton affairs. He is sometimes referred to as the father of Taunton. Frances (Deighton) Williams died in Taunton in 1706, aged 96. Her sister Katherine Deighton married Governor Thomas Dudley who was governor of Massachusetts in 1634, 1640, 1645, and 1650. Their son Joseph Dudley was Massachusetts Governor from

1702 to 1715. The petitioners chose a good name for the new town since the approval of both Taunton and the Massachusetts government was required.

In 1735, a part of Dighton on the east side of the Taunton river was incorporated into the newly formed town of Berkley. The remaining portion of Dighton on the east side of the Taunton River was annexed by Berkley in 1799. In 1814, the portion of Dighton north of Brook Street (Great Lots 47 to 85), split off to form the short-lived town of Wellington. Wellington was reunited with Dighton in 1828.

Reverend Nathaniel Fisher and the First Dighton Meetinghouse. On December 19, 1709 the South Precinct formed a committee to make an agreement with Nathaniel Fisher to become their first minister. On June 28, 1710 this committee reported that a salary agreement had been reached with him. He was born April 5, 1686 in Dedham, Massachusetts, the son of Captain Daniel and Mary (Fuller) Fisher. He graduated from Harvard in 1706 with a Bachelor's degree and kept the grammar school at Taunton for several years before moving to the South Purchase. He was ordained in Dighton on November 26, 1712. On December 15, 1715, at Little Compton, Rhode Island, he married Elizabeth Richmond, daughter of Sylvester and Elizabeth (Rogers) Richmond [Richmond 1897, 35].

The Fishers lived in the Fisher-Baylies house which is still standing a quarter mile north of the old Dighton cemetery and site of the first Dighton meetinghouse. Nathaniel Fisher remained Dighton's minister until his death August 31, 1777 at which time he was the oldest minister in New England [Shipton 1937, 5:312].

The first Dighton meetinghouse stood on the small hill in front of the old Dighton cemetery on Elm Street. On November 10, 1710 the town voted to pay £16 10s. to Thomas Jones, Mathew Briggs, and Joseph Pool for setting up the meetinghouse [Dighton Town Records, 1:11]. In 1722 Joseph Deane, Junior was paid eight shillings for making a door for the meetinghouse. In 1725 the town voted that the meetinghouse galleries should be finished with bannisters and the meetinghouse should be fenced out at a distance of twenty feet. On August 29, 1748 the town voted £300 for the repair of the old meetinghouse. The meetinghouse burned one night in the spring of 1767 under suspicious circumstances [Lane 1962, 81]. For the past several years, the little, old meetinghouse had fallen into disrepair and a controversy had arisen among the parishoners whether to repair the old meetinghouse or build a new one nearer to where many of the parishoners lived. The fire helped end the controversy, and a new meetinghouse was built in the Buck Plain section of Dighton about a mile west of the old site.

The records from 1708 to 1815 for this first church in Dighton disappeared after its minister Reverend William Warren was dismissed in 1815 for intemperence [Hurd 1883, 239].

CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF JARED TALBOT

April 1, 1664. Marries Sarah Andrews.

"Garad Talbot married to Sarah Androwes the first of Aprill 1664"
[Taunton Proprietors Records, 1:1].

COMMENTARY

The first letter of his name is either a capital G written over a capital J or a capital J written over a capital G. It is not possible to determine which was written over which.

Sarah Andrews was the daughter of Henry and Mary Andrews of Taunton. Henry was one of the original forty-six proprietors (purchasers) of Taunton when it was purchased from the Indians in 1638. He was a deputy (representative) from Taunton to the General Court (legislature) in Plymouth in 1639, 1642, 1643, 1647, and 1649. He was given a tract of land known as the calve's pasture (also called calve's neck) for building the first Taunton meetinghouse in 1647. Henry Andrews died sometime between the writing of his will on March 13, 1651/2 and the taking of the inventory of his estate on February 10, 1652/3. He left the calve's neck and £130 to his daughter Sarah and his daughter Abigail to be equally divided between them. The inventory of his estate lists £30 in the hands of John Parker, shoemaker, of Boston, and £100 in the hands of Lt. James Wyatt of Taunton; both sums to be kept for the benefit of his two young daughters. He also left Sarah and Abigail a feather bed, a bolster, and a dozen silver spoons to belong equally unto them. John Parker had moved from Taunton to Boston about the year 1643.

Some printed works have tentatively identified Sarah's mother as Mary Street [Boyer 1981, 29], daughter of Francis and Elizabeth Street, but this cannot be the case. Mary Street was the only child of Francis Street to outlive him and she apparently never married [Seaver's notes]. On November 26, 1672 Mary Street was listed as one of the eighty-seven associates of the South Purchase. Her mother, the widow Elizabeth Street, married Thomas Lincoln, Senior in Taunton on June 5, 1665. Mary Street and Elizabeth Lincoln both signed a deed on January 2, 1698/9 [Bristol County Deeds, 3:326].

Sarah's mother, Mary Andrews, in her will dated February 14, 1654/5, stated that she was forty-three years old. She died sometime before her will was presented at court on March 15, 1654/5.

Sarah was one of four children. Her older sister Mary first married William Hodges about 1649. He may have been the Captain Hodges, mentioned in Winthrop's Journal in 1633, who sailed between Massachusetts and Virginia [Emery 1893, 89; Chandler 1883, 526]. He probably died shortly before the inventory of his estate was made on April 2, 1654. Mary then married Peter Pitts in 1655. Sarah's older brother Henry first married Hannah Street about 1652 and after her death married Mary Wadsworth about 1659 [Torrey 1985, 17]. He

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was killed by Indians in a raid at Taunton in May 1676. Sarah had a sister Abigail who married Deacon John Wadsworth of Duxbury July 25, 1667. Abigail died in Duxbury November 24/25, 1723 aged 76. The fact that Sarah was mentioned first in both of her parents' wills almost surely means she was older than Abigail.

August 2, 1664. Acknowledges wife Sarah has Received her Inheritance.

"Att this court, an acquittance was shewen in the court, whereby it apered that the portion belonging to Sarah Andrews, the daughter of Mr Henery Andrews, of Taunton, deceased, is fully payed and satisfyed; which said acquittance was signed with Jared Talbut, and witnessed by George Macye and William Harvey, whose names were subscribed thereunto with theire owne hands" [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 4:70].

COMMENTARY

Lt. James Wyatt, who had been holding a portion of Sarah Andrews' inheritance, died in Taunton June 5, 1664, and this acquittance was shown at court during the settling of his estate. The inventory of his estate lists £65 owed to Abigail Andrews, but no money owed to Sarah Andrews. Apparently, John Parker, the Boston shoemaker, had transferred the £30 inheritance money he was holding to James Wyatt, who then gave £65 to Sarah and Jared when they married. Apparently, Wyatt's widow wanted the acquittance shown to establish that the debt had been paid. If, in fact, Sarah did not receive her inheritance until her marriage, that would suggest that she had not yet reached twenty-one by the time of her marriage.

May 18, 1666. Granted Land near Pale Brook.

"Likewise, this 18th of May 1666 it was voted & granted that Jared Talbut shall have three or four acres of land on ye South East side of Pale Brook bounded by ye Great River on ye west, and ye land of George Hall on ye south, and a certain plain on the east, and a little gully on ye north provided that the said Jared Talbut doth build and live upon ye above said land" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 4:14].

COMMENTARY

Town proprietors (owners of the still undivided town land) would sometimes make these offers of town land to induce people to settle in their town. This offer indicates Jared had not yet built a house in Taunton. For the first two years of his marriage, he may have been living with his wife's relatives or possibly somewhere other than Taunton.

Pale Brook is on the map of Raynham in the 1895 Atlas of Bristol County (see map on page 40 of this paper). Pale Brook today is about five feet wide and flows into the Taunton River one hundred feet southeast of where Route 24 crosses the river. The little

gully is still very evident in the woods just south of the small King graveyard on South Street East. This graveyard is on the USGS topographical map on page 39 of this paper. Pale Brook is not shown on the topographical map, but it flows between the graveyard and Route 24.

Jared did build a house on this land near Pale Brook which he sold to Philip King of Weymouth on July 20, 1683. The most probable site for Jared's Pale Brook house is the P. King house on the map of Taunton drawn by Morgan Cobb in 1728 (see map on page 41). The P. King on the 1728 map is Philip King, grandson of the Philip King who purchased Jared's house in 1683. The home of P. King is on the right-hand-side of Squabity cartway (going away from Taunton) right where the path makes a turn from east to south. The next house south of P. King's house belongs to J. Hall and the Great River is a few hundred yards west of the P. King house. The house was on the west side of the road where Orchard Street and South Street East meet in Raynham today. The spot is .35 of a mile southeast of the major cloverleaf intersection of highways 24 and 44 (see map on page 39).

In 1889, as part of the celebration of Taunton's 250th anniversary, a plaque was placed at the site of Philip King's (and apparently Jared Talbot's) house [Emery et al. 1889, 93]. In 1899, a King family reunion visited the Philip King cellar hole and reported that the site of the ancient domicile was easily located from the bricks and broken stones from the walls. The bricks were said to have been made in Holland [King Pamphlet].

I have been unable to locate either the historical plaque or bricks in the general area of Jared Talbot's Pale Brook house and all trace of this house may have been removed sometime since 1899.

Neither of the other two King houses on the 1728 map can be Jared's house. The Capt. King house is north of Pale Brook (Jared's was south, see map on page 41). This house belonged to Captain John King (the son of Philip King who bought Jared's house) and is still standing. The J. King house on the 1728 map is east of Squabity cartway (Jared's was west, see map on page 41 and Jared's land purchase of May 8, 1676).

March 20, 1666/7. Son Jared Born.

"The names of the children of Garad Talbut ... Garad Talbut the son of Garad Talbut borne the 20 March 1666 or xxx" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 1:4].

"Gared, the son of Garrett Talbot, was borne the 20th of March, 1667" [Plymouth Colony Records, 37].

COMMENTARY

The corner of the page is torn on page 4, volume 1 of the Proprietors Records. The missing date would have been a 67.

Many researchers have confused Jared Talbot, Senior with his son Jared. All references to Jared Talbot before 1687 refer to Jared Talbot, Senior, and all references in 1687 or later refer to his son Jared. Any reference to Captain Jared Talbot is to the son Jared who became the captain of the Dighton militia. Captain Jared Talbot was a very active man, and the next two pages are about him. The paper returns to the life of Jared Talbot, Senior on page 14.

On May 4, 1687 Jared (Junior) married Rebekah Hathaway [Leonard, account book]. Rebekah was born January 13, 1669 in Taunton, daughter of John and Martha (Shepherd) Hathaway. They had fourteen children, only five of whom survived their first year.

They lived on Elm Street across the street from the Dighton meetinghouse and the old Dighton cemetery. Today there is no trace of the Captain Jared house, so it is not possible to pinpoint its precise location. Since it was definitely across the street from the old meetinghouse and cemetery, it was either on Great Lot 48, which Captain Jared bought from Thomas Williams on May 6, 1695 [Bristol County Deeds, 4:45] or on Great Lot 49 which his father Jared bought from Joseph Williams April 4, 1684 [Bristol County Deeds, 4:56]. The 1695 deed incorrectly states that Captain Jared is buying Great Lot 47. A careful reading of other deeds, keeping track of the different Great Lot owners in that area, will show that it was a clerk's error and he really purchased Great Lot 48 in 1695. Captain Jared Talbot actually purchased Great Lot 47 from James Paul on May 8, 1723 [Bristol County Deeds, 15:195].

The southern wall of the old cemetery is probably the Lot 48/Lot 49 boundary, and it is definite that the entire graveyard lies in Lot 49. In 1942 my father, Roscoe Post Talbot, wrote in a letter that Mrs. Goff, who had lived across from the cemetery many years, had shown him that year the precise spot of the old Captain Jared Talbot house. The Goff family had lived next to the old Dighton cemetery since before 1840 [Federal Census, 1840]. My father wrote that the house site was "kitty corner" to the old cemetery; that is, not directly opposite from it. That would place the Captain Jared Talbot house near the Lot 48/Lot 49 boundary which is also the nicest place for a house being on top of a very small, gently sloping rise across from the graveyard.

In front of the cemetery, and close to its southern edge is a monument to Jared Talbot that reads:

"JARED TALBOT, LEADER IN THE FOUNDING OF THE TOWN OF DIGTON,
ERECTED THE FIRST FRAME HOUSE NEAR THIS SITE BEFORE 1680".

Mrs. Goff, who claimed to know the precise spot of the Captain Jared house, presumably had some input into the locating of the monument, and one can infer that she believed the house was near the Lot 48/Lot 49 boundary.

The monument's wording has mistakenly merged Captain Jared Talbot and his father Jared, Senior into a single person. Captain Jared Talbot, who was a leader in the formation of Dighton, certainly did not build the first frame house in present-day Dighton before 1680 at age thirteen or less. Jared Talbot, Senior who was the first settler in the South Purchase died in 1686, long before there was any attempt to form Dighton. It is also unlikely that Jared, Senior erected the first frame house in present-day Dighton before 1680 since it was not until 1683 that he sold his house and lands near Pale Brook in present-day Raynham.

Captain Jared's son Seth Talbot inherited his father's house in 1733/4. After Seth died in 1741, the house came into the possession of the Richmond family. Colonel Ezra Richmond, Seth Talbot's nephew, lived in the house for many years [Hurd 1883, 236]. Colonel Ezra Richmond sold the house and land to his son Thomas Baylies Richmond on March 26, 1798. In 1800, Ezra Richmond was still living in the Captain Jared Talbot house [Federal Census, 1800]. The house is not on the 1851 map of Bristol County which is the earliest map to show houses in Dighton.

A partial description of the house was given when the property was divided between Seth Talbot's daughters in 1747 and 1749 [Bristol County Probates, 11:463; 12:438]. The fore door faced south, with the western end of the house toward the highway. The house was only about fifty feet back from the highway. There was a stone hitching post between the house and highway. There was a cellar under the western end of the house and a bed chamber north of the chimney. The homestead had a barn crib and a "syder house".

Captain Jared Talbot was a leader in the formation of the town of Dighton. On October 20, 1708 he presented the petition to form the South Precinct to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in Boston. On December 19, 1709 he was appointed to a committee to make an agreement with Nathaniel Fisher about becoming the first minister. At the June 28, 1710 precinct meeting, the committee reported that a salary agreement had been reached with Reverend Fisher (each year, the minister's salary was by far the greatest town expense; in 1721 the entire Dighton town budget was £120 of which £72 was for Reverend Fisher's salary). On October 27, 1710 Captain Jared Talbot read a petition to the Massachusetts House of Representatives praying that the South Precinct be made a township. The town expenses for 1712 included £17 18s. 7d. for Captain Talbot for obtaining the precinct and township.

He was prominent in town affairs all his life. In 1700 he was a sergeant in the Taunton military company (militia). In 1700 this company had one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, four sergeants, three corporals, and two drummers plus many men with no rank. He became a captain of the Taunton militia and went on the unsuccessful expedition against Port Royal, Nova Scotia during Queen Anne's War in 1707 [Mass. Archives 71:300, military records]. He later became captain of the Dighton militia. At the December 21, 1713 town meeting he donated land near the meetinghouse for use as the town

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pound for stray animals. At the same meeting, the town voted to build stocks and a whipping post.

At the September 20, 1715 town meeting, he and Abraham Hathaway were given the right to operate a ferry boat across the Taunton River for ten years. Possible remains of the ferry boat landing can be seen near the corner of Route 138 and Chase Avenue in Dighton. The Taunton River is only about one hundred feet wide at this point. The ferry boat was used primarily to transport Dighton residents on the east side of the Taunton River to and from Sunday church services. At the October 27, 1730 town meeting, he was voted £1 for making five oars for the town "bote".

In 1719 he was paid £2 6s. for "diating" (boarding) the schoolmaster. For many years he was paid ten shillings annually for sweeping the meetinghouse. He was a logical choice for this job, since he lived across the street from the meetinghouse. He held numerous town offices including town clerk, selectman, assessor, treasurer, sealer of weights and measures, and Justice of the Peace. In 1722 he was Dighton's representative to the General Court in Boston and was paid £23 4s. for this service.

The Dighton town offices, in addition to those just listed, were: viewer of fences; surveyor of highways; tithingman; hog reeve; field driver; leather sealer; constable; horse constable; stave culler; clerk of the market; measurer of lumber, shingles, and planks; and inspector of flax. The hog reeve made sure hogs in town were properly yoked and put rings through their noses to prevent their rooting in residents' gardens. This must have been one of the least desirable town offices. At the March 27, 1722 town meeting, the first four men nominated to be hog reeve declined. The fifth nominee, Matthew Briggs, accepted.

Captain Jared Talbot was a major landowner in Dighton. At one time or another, he owned all or part of Great Lots 8, 11-14, 28-30, 45-59, 64-66, and 82.

Captain Jared Talbot died January 21, 1733/4 and his wife Rebekah died December 31, 1742. The inventory of his estate is two pages long, contains eighty-one items, and shows he was a man of considerable means with an estate valued at £1133 6s. 7d. . His "ferry Bote and cannoo" were valued at £22. In his will he bequeathed "to the town of Dighton one acre and a halfe of land on the hill westerly from the meeting house for the use of a burying place...and also the land where the meeting house stands...". Since 1710, the meetinghouse had stood on Captain Jared Talbot's land and he is now giving this land to the town. The oldest marked gravestone in this burying ground is dated 1713, so many burials occurred there while the land still belonged to Captain Talbot.

November 15, 1667. Helps Search for Timothy Poole.

"Timothy Poole, son of Captaine William Poole, being about twenty five yeares old, on the 15th day of November, 1667, in the morning, went from the house of James Bell, pretending to goe to kill some

fowle, to a smale pond about halfe a mile from the house of James Bell; Hester, the wife of James Bell, reported that Timothy Poole told her that hee had killed some fowle, and that he had some expectation to kill some more; but returning not that day, James Bell, comeing home to his house that day, made some serch in the woods for him, but not finding him, came to the towne to have some others to goe seek him, with whom there were Henery Andrewes, John Hall, Jehud Talbut, Samuella Hall, Nathaniel Williams, Joseph Williams, and some others, which after some serch made by these by the syde of a smale pond, they found on the snow his tract, and by that came where they found his gun and most of his clothes, and from thence saw where the yice had been formerly broken into the pond; and after that, when they had feched a canoe, and after some time of dilligent serch, Henery Andrewes discovered him att the bottome of the pond, about twelve foot deep in the water; which when they had gotten up, they brought to the shore, and finding noe hurt on him any otherwise but that he perished in and by the water and the extremitie of the cold; and this the verdict of the jury which was warned by the constable, which are these underwritten by us." (twelve names, none of which was Jared Talbot) [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 4:170].

COMMENTARY

Apparently, Jared had built his home near Pale Brook by the time James Bell went toward Taunton center recruiting neighbors to search for Timothy Poole. The home of James Bell was probably near the spot where he was killed by Indians while planting his crops on May 23, 1676 [Hurd 1883, 744]. This was the same raid that killed Jared's brother-in-law Henry Andrews and three other men. The map by James E. Seaver puts the spot of this massacre at the point where the path past Jared's house crosses the Taunton River (see map on page 42 of this paper).

The 1728 Taunton map by Morgan Cobb puts the homes of L. Williams, E. Dean, J. Hall, J. Hall, and P. King (grandson of Philip King who purchased Jared's house and land in 1683) along the path leading from the massacre spot toward the center of Taunton. The surnames of these homeowners agree well with the surnames of the neighbors James Bell recruited on his way to town.

Timothy Poole was the son of Captain William Poole, the commanding officer of the Taunton trainband (militia) which was organized in 1643. Timothy was the nephew of Elizabeth Poole, sometimes called by historians the "virgin mother" of Taunton, who in 1637 was Taunton's first settler of record. She never married. Before the American Revolution, one of her Taunton next of kin, John Borland, was a sympathizer with the British, and someone dug up her bones and scattered them all over town [Taunton Daily Gazette, February 3, 1904].

February 11, 1669. Obtains Half a Purchase Right.

"John Cobb of Taunton, blacksmith, do freely voluntarily of my own good will and respect that I have & bear to my respected friend Jared Talbutt of Taunton...give him one half my purchase rights of lands bought by the proprietors from Mr. Thomas Prince, Major Josiah Winslow, Captain Thomas Southworth, & Mr. Constant Southworth, agents for the colony of New Plimouth" [Bristol County Deeds, 4:59].

COMMENTARY

There is no mention of any money in this deed, and the reason for this gift is not known. The land referred to was the North Purchase which was purchased from King Philip in 1668 and became the northern section of Taunton. On June 12, 1711 this section split off from Taunton and became the town of Norton. Later, Easton (1725) and Mansfield (1750) split off from Norton to become granddaughter towns of Taunton.

July 21, 1670. Daughter Mary Born.

"The names of the children of Garad Talbut...Mary Talbut the daughter of Garad Talbut borne ye 21 July 1670" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 1:4].

COMMENTARY

There is no further record of Mary, and she probably died young. The failure to record births, marriages, and deaths in the early records was not uncommon.

December 14, 1671. Daughter Elizabeth Born.

"The names of the children of Garad Talbut... Elizabeth Talbut the daughter of Garad Talbut borne ye 14 of December-1671" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 1:4].

"Mary Talbutt, the daughter of Jarudd Talbutt, was borne the 14th of December, 1671" [Plymouth Colony Records, 60].

COMMENTARY

The Plymouth Colony record calls this daughter Mary. Perhaps this daughter was named Mary Elizabeth after the daughter Mary who probably died in infancy one year earlier. It was a common practice to name a child after one who had just died. In any event, this daughter appears as Elizabeth in all other records.

In 1690 Elizabeth married Ephraim Hathaway who was born in Taunton December 8, 1661, son of John and Martha (Shepherd) Hathaway. Three years earlier, Elizabeth's older brother Jared had married Ephraim's sister Rebekah Hathaway. A pair of siblings marrying another pair of siblings was not uncommon in the sparsely settled towns of early New England. Elizabeth and Ephraim Hathaway lived in the Broad Cove section of Dighton and had eleven children:

1. Elizabeth born May 28, 1690
2. Ephraim born December 8, 1692
3. Nathaniel born February 1694
4. Josiah born May 18, 1697
5. Joseph born May 21, 1698
6. Mercy born November 18, 1701
7. Sarah born June 9, 1704
8. Seth born March 18, 1707
9. Rebeckah born November 15, 1710
10. Joshua born February 28, 1712
11. Abigail born April 12, 1715.

Ephraim Hathaway was given the first contract by the town of Dighton to operate a ferry boat across the Taunton River. Ephraim died December 20, 1716 in Dighton.

November 26, 1672. Listed as a South Purchase Associate.

"Know all men it may concern that we William Benton, Esq., Richard Williams, ..., hath through difficulty obteyned...a tract of land conteyning four mile square lying & scittuate below ye three mile River...declare to be our Associates and to be equally interested in ye above sd four miles...provided that all these associates shall truly & faithfully pay or cause to be paid their full proportion to ye purchase, and all other nessary charges expended..." (followed by a list of eighty-seven names including Jared Talbut). [Taunton Proprietors Records, 4:36].

COMMENTARY

The South Purchase had been purchased two months earlier from King Philip by several agents working on behalf of these eighty-seven associates. Each of these associates would become a proprietor (eligible to receive land in the various divisions of common land) providing he paid his share toward the expenses of purchasing and surveying the newly acquired land.

There were two women among these eighty-seven associates: Esther Gallop and Mary Street.

1675. Listed Among the Taunton Heads of Families.

"The names of the heads of families in Taunton anno domini 1675 when Philip's war began" (followed by a list of ninty-six names including Jared Talbut) [Emery 1893, 93; Reed c. 1880].

COMMENTARY

Neither Emery nor Reed give a source for this record.

February 29, 1675/6. Son Samuel Born.

"The names of the children of Garad Talbut... Samuell Talbut the son of Jared Talbut borne ye in 29 Feberewary-1675" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 1:4].

"Samuell Talbott, the son of Jererd Talbot, was borne the 29th of February, 1675" [Plymouth Colony Records, 68]

COMMENTARY

In 1698 Samuel married Mary Dyer who was born in Sheepscot, Maine, the daughter of Christopher and Ruth Dyer [Dyer and Allen 1911]. Christopher Dyer was killed by Indians in Sheepscot in December 1689. Ruth Dyer married second John Hathaway of Taunton on October 25, 1692. The inventory of Ruth Hathaway's estate, taken on January 23, 1705/6, includes "A gown and a pair of gloves in the costodie of Samuel Talbut of Taunton son in law to the said widow...01=04=00" [Bristol County Probates, 2:153].

In 1700 Samuel Talbut was listed as a member of the Taunton trainband [Emery 1893, 353]. He was one of the thirty-one men to sign the petition on October 11, 1708 to form a South Precinct within Taunton. Some printed works list James Talbut instead, but the original petition at the Massachusetts State Archives clearly shows the name is Samuel and there is no James Talbut on the list. At the March 16, 1723 Dighton town meeting, Samuel was chosen clerk of the "marcit" (market).

Samuel and Mary Talbot had seven children, six of whom married. Job died aged two. On March 18, 1700/1 Samuel sold forty-eight acres with a dwelling house and orchard at the feet of Great Lots 54, 55, and 56 to Peter Pitts [Bristol County Deeds, 3:345]. This house is the first mention of a Talbot house in the South Purchase. There is some indication that Samuel's house sat on Lot 55. Before March 18, 1700/1 Samuel owned only Lot 55. Then on that date, he exchanged the head of Lot 55 for the feet of 54 and 56 with his brother Jared and then sold the three foot ends to Peter Pitts [Bristol County Deeds, 4:35].

Several years later, Samuel started a farm on Lots 28, 29, and 30 "down in the lots" between Main Street and Hart Street in Dighton. Main Street is between Great Lots 34 and 35 whereas Hart Street is the boundary between Great Lots 20 and 21 [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 35].

In his will, dated August 21, 1739, Samuel referred to himself as a yeoman (a farmer) and began with "being bound abroad and not knowing whether death may not prevent my return...". The inventory of his estate was filed at the Probate Court on November 21, 1738, so the date on the will cannot be correct. In his will, he left £20 and the use of one room in his house to one of his daughters, the widow Sarah Kiles. She married Richard Bartlett on December 6, 1739, about a year after her father's estate inventory was filed. Since young widows generally did not remain unmarried very long, it can be inferred that Samuel made his will shortly before he died. Perhaps

he made his will on August 21, 1738 and did in fact die somewhere abroad. The inventory of his estate has only a few items and indicates he was a farmer of modest means. One of the items was "three hides and one calf skin" valued at £3 5s. Samuel was called a husbandman in a deed dated August 6, 1713 [Bristol County Deeds, 8:3].

Samuel left his house to his son Benjamin. Benjamin was the father of the famous Revolutionary War naval hero Commodore Silas Talbot who was born in Dighton January 11, 1751. It is likely that Silas was born in the house Samuel built somewhere on Lots 28, 29, or 30. Charles Warren Chase, a Dighton historian, wrote an article about Silas Talbot in which he stated "The Talbot home was down in the lots, with only a cart-path as a way of approach, and has long since been torn down; but the stone bridge built across a stream before the approach to the house still remains. It has stone abutments four or five feet high and capstones six feet in length" [Taunton Daily Gazette, July 11, 1905]. This stone bridge still exists in fine condition across Muddy Cove Brook (also known as Sally Richmond Brook) with a cart-path leading across it. Starting at the corner of Milk Street and Main Street in Dighton, the stone bridge can be found by going 900 feet west to the small family graveyard on the south side of Main Street. The stone bridge is 800 feet due south from this graveyard across a field and just into the woods. The northern boundary of the Samuel Talbot farm was the Lot 30/Lot 31 boundary which is four Great Lot widths south from Main Street. Since each Great Lot was about 270 feet wide, the homestead began about 1100 feet south of Main Street. Thus the Silas Talbot birthplace is probably someplace along the cart-path between 300 feet and 1100 feet south of this stone bridge. Most of this small area is now a slightly overgrown hayfield surrounded by woods. There is no trace of a cellar hole, and if there was a cellar, it must have been filled in when the land became a hayfield. The 1851 map of Bristol County shows not a single house down in the lots between Main and Hart Streets, so the old Samuel Talbot house came down before 1851. The 1851 map does show the home of Lemira (Mason) Peck on Main Street just west of Muddy Cove Brook. She was the widow of General William Peck who had lived on the former Benjamin Talbot farm [Hurd 1883, 248].

The reporting by Charles Warren Chase that the Commodore Silas Talbot birthplace was on the cart-path across the stone bridge must be taken seriously. When he wrote his article, many residents of Dighton would have known in their youth some of Silas' nieces and nephews. Silas' nephew Deacon Joseph Talbot died in Dighton April 23, 1858. Another nephew, Benjamin A. Talbot died in Dighton April 26, 1877. These nieces and nephews of Silas would surely have been proud of their famous uncle and would have described or pointed out the precise spot Silas was born. Charles Warren Chase was born in Dighton June 8, 1862 and could have talked to Benjamin A. Talbot himself.

May 8, 1676. Expands his Pale Brook Farm.

"At a town meeting warned by ye constable, it is voted and agreed by the town that Jared Talbut is to have the land between his own land and Pale Brook so called & known; from ye Great River to extend in length to Squabity cartway for four bushels of Indian corn an acre, provided that it doth not prejedice ye highway" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 4:42].

COMMENTARY

Squabity cartway was named for Squaw Betty who was a local Indian [Emery et al. 1889, 234]. A section of East Taunton is still known as Squawbetty. From Morgan Cobb's 1728 Taunton map, it is clear that Squabity cartway is today's South Street East in Raynham (see maps on pages 39 and 41). When Jared sold his house in 1683, the deed stated that it had forty acres of land with it. Hence this purchase must have been about thirty-six acres to go with the three or four acres given him in 1666 by the proprietors. The new purchase extended his land northward from the little gully, staying between the Taunton River (Great River) on the west and South Street East (Squabity cartway) on the east until Pale Brook was reached.

March 6, 1676/7. Fined for not Returning a Kettle.

"In reference unto a kettle appertaineing to James Walker, Junr, taken away by Jerrud Talbutts souldiers, but not returned, the Court have ordered, that the said souldiers shall forthwith make payment of 31^s currant silver mony of New England unto the said James Walker or his order, in full satisfaction for the said kettle" [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 5:222].

COMMENTARY

Jared apparently commanded some soldiers during the war against the Indians. This court action occurred during that war.

There is a tradition that Jared took his family and fled by boat on the Taunton River during a raid in this war [Hurd 1883, 216]. This very well may have happened during the May 1676 massacre that occurred a mile further down Squabity cartway from Jared's house (see map on page 42). Jared's house was between the massacre site and the center of Taunton. Jared's home was at most a few hundred yards from the Taunton river, and with his wife Sarah and three or four very young children (Samuel was not yet three months old), he probably used good judgement to flee down the river to the protection of one of Taunton's eight fortified houses.

There is another tradition, told to me by my father, that while building a log cabin, Jared spied an Indian skulking around in the woods and generally looking suspicious. Jared asked the Indian to help him and then killed the Indian by either felling a tree on him or rolling a log on him. This is a terrible story, and I hope it is not true, but who knows?...we weren't there and perhaps if Jared hadn't rolled the log on the Indian, none of us would be reading this.

March 6, 1676/7. Serves as Juror at Witchcraft Trial.

"Mary Ingham: thou art indited by the name of Mary Ingham, the wife of Thomas Ingham, of the towne of Scittuate, in the jurisdiction of New Plymouth, for that thou, having not the feare of God before thyne eyes, hast, by the healp of the divill, in a way of witchcraft or sorcery, malliciously procured much hurt, mischeiffe, and paine unto the body of Mehittable Woodworth, the daughter of Walter Woodworth, of Scittuate aforsaid, and some others, and particularly causing her, the said Mehittable, to fall into violent fitts, and causing great paine unto severall parts of her body att severall times, soe as shee, the said Mehittable Woodworth, hath bin almost bereaved of her sences, and hath greatly lanquished, to her much suffering therby, and the procuring of great greiffe, sorrow, and charge to her parents; all which thou hast procured and don against the law of God, and to his great dishoner, and contrary to our sorerign lord the Kinge, his crowne and dignitie.

The said Mary Ingham did putt herselfe on the tryall of God and the countrey, and was cleared of this inditement in processe of law by a jury of twelve men, whose names follow:" (twelve names including Jerud Talbutt) [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 5:223].

COMMENTARY

Witchcraft trials were held throughout New England with mostly women, but also a few men, accused as witches. The famous Salem witchcraft trials occurred in 1692-93, some fifteen years after Jared Talbot sat in judgement of Mary Ingham in Plymouth.

March 6, 1676/7. Serves as Juror on some Minor Cases.

"The names of the jury that served for the tryall of actions this court were, -" (twelve names including Jerud Talbut) [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 7:201]

COMMENTARY

The trial of actions cases were similar to small claims cases today with one individual bringing a case against another. The cases that Jared heard involved:

1. Putting a boundary line on someone else's land.
2. A constable who failed to collect money for a complainant.
3. Tresspass on another's land.
4. A stolen horse.
5. Cutting timber on someone else's land.

About 1677. Draws Lot 54.

"Here follows the list of the Great Lotts being the first division in the South Purchase so called as said lotts were drawn by the purchasers, according to lott" (followed by a list of eighty-five names and numbers including Jared Talbut-54) [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 11].

COMMENTARY

The precise date of the initial division of South Purchase lands was not recorded. On April 6, 1703, however, George Gooding, Nathaniel Thayer, Thomas Harvey and others testified that they were present for the initial division and that it occurred "in or about the year 1677 some time after the Indian War called Philip's War" [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 31].

The word lot for a piece of land derives from this practice of drawing lots to determine the division of commonly-held land. Great Lot 54 is a good strip of land - flat and dry. The Fisher-Baylies house just north of the intersection of Route 138 and Elm Street in Dighton sits either on Lot 54, Lot 55, or both.

About 1677. Draws Little Lot 24.

"The list of the Little Lotts in the South Purchase being the Second Division in the South Purchase which little lotts do but on the three mile river untill it comes to the old town line and then the rest of the said little lotts do but on said towne line until their number is made up"

...
...
Jared Talbot-24
...

...
[South Purchase Proprietors Records, 12]

COMMENTARY

This record is undated, but the drawing for the four-acre Little Lots probably occurred immediately or shortly after the first division of the South Purchase about 1677. In the Proprietors Records, the list of numbers drawn for the Little Lots immediately follows the list of lot numbers drawn at the first division. The second division definitely occurred before March 18, 1683/4 when Jared purchased Little Lot 5 from James Tisdale.

Before July 16, 1678. Name Written on a List.

Name Jarit Talbut followed by digit 0 on a scrap of paper [Taunton Records 1642-1816, 7].

COMMENTARY

This undated scrap of paper contains a list of names each followed by an amount of money and was probably a tax list. Edward Rew with the amount 01-07-09 (one pound-seven shillings-nine pence) is on this list. Since he died July 16, 1678, this Jarit must be Jared Talbot, Senior. The paper is torn after the leading 0 of Jarit's amount, so his tax is unknown. This volume contains many such scraps of paper containing names and amounts with most scraps undated. The name Jared Talbut is on a list on page 45, Jarit Talbut on page 186, and Jarad Talbut on page 207. I am unable to determine whether these scraps refer to Jared Talbot, Senior or to his son Captain Jared Talbot.

October 21, 1678. Son Josiah Born..

"the names of the children of Garad Talbut...Josiah Talbut the son of Jarad Talbut borne ye 21 of October-1678" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 1:4].

"Josiah Talbot, the son of Jared Talbot, was borne the 21 of October, 1678" [Plymouth Colony Records, 68].

COMMENTARY

There is no further record of Josiah and he probably died young.

February 26, 1679. Purchases Lot 51.

Jared Talbut, yeoman of Taunton, purchases for a "valuable sum" Great Lot number 51 from Increase Robinson of Taunton [Bristol County Deeds, 4:46].

COMMENTARY

The term *yeoman* meant farmer in the early records and was by far the most common title for a man. The inventory of Jared's estate lists various farm tools and farm animals (including six oxen) indicating that he was indeed a farmer as well as a mariner.

Great Lot number 51 is a miserable lot. It is low and swampy.

March 8, 1679. Obtains Deed for Lot 53.

Sarah Walker, wife of James Walker, executrix for her late husband Edward Rew, deeds to Jared Talbot land south of Three Mile River that Edward Rew had sold to Jared Talbot in his lifetime [Bristol County Deeds, 4:56].

COMMENTARY

The Taunton land south of the Three Mile River was the South Purchase. Edward Rew was an original South Purchase proprietor and drew Lot 53 at the first drawing of Lots in about the year 1677. He

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died July 16, 1678 [Taunton Vital Records, 3:173]. Thus Jared acquired Lot 53 before July 16, 1678. Edward's widow Sarah (Richmond) Rew married second James Walker, Senior of Taunton November 4, 1678.

February 21, 1679. Son Nathaniel Born.

"The children of Garad Talbut...Nathanill Talbut the son of Jarad Talbut borne ye 21 of Febrewary-1679" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 1:4].

"Nathaniell Talbut, the son Jared Talbutt born the 21 of February, 1679" [Plymouth Colony Records, 81].

COMMENTARY

On May 5, 1697 Nathaniel was impressed into military service [Emery 1893, 400]. In 1700 he was a member of the Taunton trainband [Emery 1893, 353]. On December 15, 1701 he purchased 144 acres at the head of lots 48 through 56 from his brother Jared [Bristol County Deeds, 7:607]. He sold this same land with a house and orchard to Samuel Whitmarsh on December 23, 1704 [Bristol County Deeds, 7:608]. It appears that he may have married between 1701 and 1704.

On December 1, 1707 Nathaniel and his wife Sarah had a daughter Abial [Dighton Vital Records, 1:19]. Abial had a son Philip born in Dighton on October 10, 1731. Abial Talbot married William Phillips in Dighton in 1733.

There is absolutely no mention of Nathaniel in the records after the birth of his daughter Abial in 1707. His name is not on the petition in 1708 to form a South Precinct even though both his brothers' names are listed. The name Abial was sometimes given to a baby when the father was absent [Lane 1962, 111]. Perhaps Nathaniel went with his brother Captain Jared Talbot on the military expedition to Port Royal, Nova Scotia in 1707 and never returned.

Nathaniel's widow Sarah probably married Captain Abraham Hathaway of Dighton shortly after Nathaniel's death in 1707. The children of Captain Abraham and Sarah Hathaway are recorded on page 19 of book 1 of the Dighton vital records as follows:

1. Abraham b. January 28, 1710
2. Susannah b. January 16, 1712
3. Jonathan
4. Simeon b. September 16, 1716
5. Sarah b. September 3, 1718
6. Shadrach
7. Benjamin b. March 10, 1724
8. Abigail b. October 7, 1726
9. Hannah b. October 7, 1726

After this list of nine children is written "Philip the son of Abial Talbut b ye 10 Oct. 1731; Bial Talbut, dau. Nath'l Talbut by Sarah his wife, b. 1 Dec. 1707".

Shadrach Hathaway in his will referred to his nephew Philip Hathaway, and Johnathan Hathaway referred to his oldest brother Abel in his will. The birth of Abel Hathaway was not recorded in the Dighton records. Perhaps Sarah Talbot had twins, Abel and Abial, in 1707, and both were adopted by Captain Abraham Hathaway when he (probably) married Nathaniel Talbot's widow. In 1736 Captain Abraham Hathaway and his family moved to Morristown, New Jersey. Philip Hathaway married Catura Fairchild on February 20, 1754 in Morristown and died there September 29, 1777 [Versailles 1970, 48; 49; 66].

July 7, 1681. Requests Payment for War Service.

"In reference and answere unto the petition of Jarud Talbutt, of Taunton, respecting monyes due to the said Talbutt, (and as it is said the mony is in the hands of some of Taunton, that had the ordering and disposing of the charges respecting the late warr that is past with the indians,) the men were William Harvey, James Walker, Senior, and William Witherell.

This Court have ordered Mr Browne and Mr Smith, Assistants, to call the said men to accoumpt of what they reserved, and how it was disposed; and if they find not theire accoumpts to be just, then to cause them to appeer att the next Court to answere theire defect, and to make returne unto the said Court of theire actings therin" [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 6:66].

COMMENTARY

Five years seems like a long time after the war had ended for Jared to be petitioning the Court to be paid for his services. At this point in his life he was in the process of trying to purchase enough adjacent great lots in the South Purchase to create a farm. I suspect he was running low on funds.

April 8, 1682. Member of the Taunton Trainband.

Jared Talbut listed as a member of the First Squadron in the Taunton trainband [City Hall Papers; see Emery 1893, 328].

COMMENTARY

On July 7, 1681 The General Court in Plymouth ruled that one-quarter of the militia in each town must bring their weapons to church services. The court order read in part: "The court order is that every souldier bring his armes fixed to meeting when it is his turn, with six charges of powder and shot and if any refuse or neglect to performe therein, to be fined two shillings for every such default...".

On April 8, 1682 the Taunton trainband was divided into four squadrons as a way to implement this order. Men between sixteen and sixty who were able to bear arms comprised each town's trainband.

25

Jared Talbot, Junior had just turned fifteen when the list of members in each of the newly formed four squadrons was written, so the Jared in the first squadron is Jared Talbot, Senior. Also, the early records were careful to put Junior or Senior after a name if any confusion could arise about whom was meant. If Jared Talbot, Junior were in the trainband underage, a Junior would have been written after his name. The same comment holds true for all the remaining references to Jared in the records up until his death in 1686. Since Junior was never written in any of these references, it must be assumed that Jared Talbot, Senior was meant.

A description of the original document listing the trainband members is contained in an envelope marked Military Papers VM599P at the Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton. The original had several holes in it where it had probably been nailed to the meetinghouse door. I have been unable to locate the original document itself.

July 15, 1682. Called a Mariner.

John Cobb of Taunton, blacksmith, for a "valuable sum" sells Jared Talbot of Taunton, mariner, one-half a purchase right in Taunton plus five acres from the thirty-acre division already divided [Bristol County Deeds, 4:31].

COMMENTARY

Taunton was a busy seaport during its first two hundred years. The channel up the Taunton River was seven feet deep at high tide which was deep enough for sloops and schooners that carried cargoes on the coastal trade up and down the eastern seaboard. In 1801 there were six ships in Taunton that sailed to New York or Philadelphia at least eight times a year and ten vessels that sailed to Providence or New Bedford at least twenty-five times a year [Hurd 1883, 235]. It was probably the sea that brought Jared, the mariner, to Taunton. Both his first home near Pale Brook, and his later home in the South Purchase were within a few hundred yards of the Taunton River.

When land was first purchased from the Indians, each proprietor (purchaser) got a single purchase right (share). The land was held in common by the proprietors, and every few years a section of the common land was divided up and given to the current shareholders according to how many purchase rights they owned. The purchase rights were a commodity and were sold in various amounts and fractions and inherited by heirs. There were twelve different land divisions in Taunton before all the land was distributed [Taunton Proprietors Records, 5:118]. In a thirty-acre division, each purchase right was worth thirty acres.

The half a purchase right Jared had bought would not bring him fifteen acres from the thirty-acre division since the division had already occurred on December 1, 1681, but it would bring him land on any future divisions.

30

On July 15, 1682 only the number of acres that would be granted to each proprietor had been decided, so Jared could not be sure of the precise location of the five acres purchased out of John Cobb's acreage. The granting of specific parcels of land occurred a few months later on October 24th.

October 24, 1682. Expands Farm Across Pale Brook.

"It is voted and granted to Jared Talbut the remainder of John Cobb's thirty acre division which is eight acres on Pale Brook near his own land provided it be not prejudicial to to any highway or former grant" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 4:54].

COMMENTARY

When Jared sold his house and all his lands near Pale Brook the next year (1683), the deed included eight acres across "Pall" Brook, so with this acquisition, Jared's homestead continued to expand northward and had now crossed Pale Brook. The land involved in this grant was the land that Jared had purchased on July 15, 1682 from John Cobb. For some reason, John Cobb had thrown in an extra three acres.

October 24, 1682. Still Living on Pale Brook Farm.

"It is voted and granted to Isaac Dean six acres of land of his part of this division on the west side of Pale Brook on ye left hand of ye way that goeth to Jared Talbuts and ye other nine acres joining to his land at Titicut Pond provided it be not prejudicial to any highway or former grant" [Taunton Proprietors Records, 4:54].

COMMENTARY

Jared was still living on his Pale Brook land. The way that goeth to Jared Talbuts would have been Squabity cartway. Isaac Dean apparently owned a half purchase right at the 1682 thirty-acre division since he got a total of fifteen acres.

July 20, 1683. Sells Pale Brook Farm.

Jared Talbutt of Taunton for £205 sells to Philip King of Weymouth his housing and land in Taunton which is a neck of land containing sixty acres more or less formerly known as the Calve's Neck; also a dwelling house with forty acres of land bounded on the south by land of John Hall, westerly by the Great River (Taunton River); also half a purchase right to Taunton lands; also eight acres across Pall Brooke. Signed by Jared Talbutt and Sarah Talbutt (with her marke, a capital S) [Bristol County Deeds, 1:17]

COMMENTARY

After he sold his house and all his land in the Pale Brook section of Taunton, Jared must have moved to the South Purchase where he had been acquiring Great Lots for the past six years. He owned no other

land other than this South Purchase land. There is a tradition that Jared Talbot erected the first frame house in present-day Dighton and became its first permanent settler [*Dighton Bicentennial* 1912, 3]. The next settler in present-day Dighton was George Gooding who in 1684 (one year after Jared) moved to the South Purchase from Noddle's Island (present-day East Boston) [Jones 1934, 219; Hurd 1883, 263]. The site of George Gooding's house is now occupied by the main building of the Bristol County Agricultural School on Center Street. Another early settler of the South Purchase was Peter Pitts, Jared's brother-in-law who had married Sarah's older sister Mary Andrews. In 1692 his house was on Great Lot 43 (near the south bank of the Segregansett River and just a short distance south of Jared's house) [Bristol County Probates, 1:70; Bristol County Deeds, 3:73].

When Jared moved to the South Purchase in 1683, he owned Great Lots 51, 53, 54, and possibly 55. Great Lot 55 was drawn by Samuel Smith at the original Great Lot division in 1677. Jared's son Samuel owned Great Lot 55 as of March 18, 1700/1, and I have found no record showing when the Talbot family acquired this lot. After Jared had drawn Great Lot 54 in the 1677 division, certainly the adjacent lot number 55 would have been the most desirable lot to acquire next since it is high, flat and dry unlike the swampy lots 50, 51, 52, and 53.

There are two possible spots for where Jared built the first frame house in present-day Dighton. Tradition has always held that Captain Jared Talbot's house, known to be across the road from the old Dighton graveyard, was the first frame house in Dighton. The exact location of this house is not known, but it definitely sat on either Great Lot number 48 or 49, neither of which were owned by Jared Talbot, Senior when he sold his Pale Brook land in 1683. Jared Talbot, Senior bought Great Lot 49 on April 4, 1684 nine months after selling his Pale Brook land, and Jared Talbot, Junior bought Great Lot 48 on May 6, 1695.

A more likely possibility is that Jared built Dighton's first frame house on Great Lot 54 or 55 and the house that Jared's son Samuel sold on March 18, 1700/1 to Peter Pitts, that probably sat on Lots 54 or 55, was the house his father had built in 1683 and today may be part of the ancient Fisher-Baylies house still standing. Peter Pitts sold the land and dwelling house to Nathaniel Smith, Senior on May 16, 1710 [Bristol County Deeds, 13:302]. Nathaniel Smith sold the property to Nathaniel Fisher sometime before September 6, 1711 and shortly after Reverend Fisher was hired as Dighton's first minister [Bristol County Deeds, 7:52]. It seems most probable that the new minister moved into the former Samuel Talbot house.

In this scenario, Jared builds his house on Lot 54 or 55 and lives there three years before he dies in October 1686. His children Jared, Elizabeth, Samuel, and Nathaniel are 19, 14, 10, and 6 when he dies. The oldest son, Jared, becomes the head of the household and marries Rebekah Hathaway the next year. Rebekah moves in with Jared, the widow Sarah, and the three young children. Jared and Rebekah remain at the family farm for eight more years, by which

time Samuel has become old enough to manage the farm. On May 6, 1695 Jared Talbot, Junior buys Great Lot 48, builds a house on or near the Lot 48/Lot 49 boundary, and moves with Rebekah and their two young boys a quarter mile south down the Country Road (the old name for Elm Street) to their new house. Samuel stays at the original Talbot farm, marries Mary Dyer in 1698, sells the original Talbot farm in 1700/1 to Peter Pitts and starts a new farm on Great Lots 28, 29, and 30.

The ancient Reverend Fisher house in Dighton today is definitely on Great Lot 54, on Great Lot 55, or partly on each. The southern edge of Brook Street is within a few feet of the Lot 47/Lot 48 dividing line [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 35, 47]. The distance measured along Elm Street from this point up to the north side of the Fisher-Baylies house is 1,968 feet. Elm Street is only slightly angled to the straight-line path that the original survey would have made through the woods in 1677. From careful measurements on the USGS topographical map, I estimate the survey distance would have been only 23 feet less or 1,945 feet. The lot number that the Fisher-Baylies house sits on depends on the length of the rod used in the 1677 survey. If the sixteen-foot, six-inch rod was used, then the house is partly on lot 54 and partly on lot 55. If the seventeen-foot, three-inch rod was used, then the house is on the northern side of lot 54.

The Fisher-Baylies house was built in two stages: the southern part was a saltbox, and the northern part was added on in 1772 when Dr. William Baylies bought the house from Fisher [Taunton Daily Gazette, August 11, 1904]. Perhaps the old saltbox part of the house was built by Jared in 1683. There are some old logs in the interior of this house that suggest that an earlier, crude home was somehow incorporated into the Fisher home when it was built. This earlier home may have been built by Jared in 1683.

March 18, 1683/4. Named an Original South Purchase Proprietor.

"...Now we the above said committee do by presents declare that these men whose names are underwritten and none but these men whose names are underwritten and none but these are fully associated and are fully and compleatly and firmly interested & entitled in the above said tract of land in the above named deeds...and none but these have performed all conditions specified in the said declaration bearing date December the 6th 1672..."

...

...

(Jared Talbott the 66th name on a list of 77 names)

...

... [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 9]

COMMENTARY

When the South Purchase was purchased from King Philip in 1672, a list of eighty-seven South Purchase associates was recorded in the proprietors records. These were individuals eligible to become

South Purchase proprietors providing they paid their share of expenses for the land purchase and subsequent surveying costs. Apparently a few of these associates decided not to become proprietors.

The two women, Esther Gallop and Mary Street, who were among the original eighty-seven associates, both became proprietors.

March 18, 1683/84. Purchases Lot 50.

James Tisdale, of Taunton, for £24 sells to Jared Talbot, of Taunton, Great Lot number 50 and Little Lot number 5, both in the South Purchase [Bristol County Deeds, 4:50].

COMMENTARY

After he sold his Pale Brook holdings, Jared had some money and quickly purchased two more Great Lots in his ongoing project of putting together a farm in the South Purchase. Most of Lot 50 is low and swampy.

April 4, 1684. Purchases Lot 49.

Joseph Williams, of Taunton, for £15 sells to Jared Talbutt, of Taunton, Great Lot number 49 on the Great River and also Little Lot number 71, both in the South Purchase [Bristol County Deeds, 4:56].

COMMENTARY

The old Dighton cemetery on Elm Street lies in Lot 49. The northern wall of this cemetery was probably the boundary between Lot 49 and Lot 50. One of the original east-west roads in Dighton was between Lot 49 and Lot 50. On February 22, 1713/4 Captain Jared Talbot was given permission to move this highway two Lots south to the Lot 47/Lot 48 boundary which is the current location of Brook Street [South Purchase Proprietors Records, 35; 47]. The original highway cut right through the middle of Captain Jared Talbot's farm. The original east-west highway was probably just inside the north wall of the cemetery. North of this wall, the land is low and swampy, and one hundred feet south of the wall is the steep, little hill where the meetinghouse stood.

July 21, 1684. Pays In-laws for Half of Calve's Neck.

Jared Talbot pays £45 sterling to John Wadsworth and his wife Abigail of Duxburrow for their half-interest in the calve's neck land [Bristol County Deeds, 4:52].

COMMENTARY

One year earlier Jared had sold this land to Philip King even though Jared had only obtained a half-interest in it by means of Sarah's dowry. The other half-interest had been willed to Sarah's sister Abigail by their father Henry Andrews. Abigail married Deacon John Wadsworth of Duxbury.

October 2, 1686. Purchases Meadow.

Thomas Burt, of Taunton, for a "valuable sum" sells to Jared Talbott of Taunton one acre of meadowland on the Great River and lying east of Jared Talbutt's land [Bristol County Deeds, 4:54].

COMMENTARY

Jared was still adding to his South Purchase farm just a few weeks before his death.

November 17, 1686. Estate Inventory Shown in Court.

An inventory of ye estate of Jared Tollbut late deceased

Item one house and land and meadow.....	107-0-0
Item beds and bedding.....	7-0-0
Item wearing clothes.....	3-0-0
Item brass and iron vessels.....	3-10-0
Item pewter and a tin dripping pan.....	0-12-0
Item chests and one box.....	1-0-0
Item bedsteads and chairs.....	1-0-0
Item two guns.....	1-10-0
Item wooden vessels.....	1-0-0
Item axes and hoes and saws with other xxx.....	3-0-0
Item wheels and tubs and leather.....	2-0-0
Item flour stones and other stones.....	0-12-0
Item cart and wheels and chains and other lumber.....	3-5-0
Item bridles and saddles.....	1-9-0
Item woolen yarn.....	0-8-0
Item glass bottles and one pair of xxx.....	0-2-0
Item six oxen.....	20-0-0
Item five cows with some other small cattle.....	13-10-0
Item one mare and colt.....	2-5-0
Item sixteen swine.....	10-0-0
Item hides.....	1-0-0
Item half a share of land in the North Purchase.....	8-0-0
Item two sheep.....	0-10-0
Item apple press.....	1-13-0
Item Half a hundred of bolts.....	0-10-0

Ye summed total is 178-18-00

His estate is indebted fifty four pounds six shillings

This inventory was priced according to money by us John Hathway and John Hodges

32
Sworne in Court by Sarah Talbutt relict of Jared Talbutt deceased
9th:17th:1686 Stephen Burton Clerke [Bristol County Probates].

COMMENTARY

The exact date of Jared's death is not known, but was probably in mid-October 1686. He had purchased an acre of meadowland on October 2, 1686. Also, the filing of estate papers generally occurred about one month after a person's death. The date 9th:17th:1686 was November 17, 1686 since November was the ninth month in the old Julian calendar.

Jared could have been at most sixty-four years old when he died because in 1682 he belonged to the Taunton trainband which had an age limit of sixty years. Sarah Talbot could not have been much over fifty years old when her husband died since she had given birth to Nathaniel in 1679.

This inventory is in the Jared Talbot 1686 probate packet at the Bristol County Probate Registry in Taunton, Massachusetts. The probate papers for Jared were inadvertantly omitted from the probate index at the registry.

A photocopy of this inventory is on page 37 of this paper. The inventory was written by John Hathaway. This is evident by comparing his name at the bottom of the inventory with his signature at the bottom of the bonding document shown on page 36 of this paper. John Hathaway used the old-fashioned Gothic script for writing. Less than ten percent of the old documents at this time were written in this Gothic style. Gothic script is difficult to read, and I may have guessed wrong on some of the words. For a few words, I had no idea what they were and put xxx in the translation. John Hathaway must have been close to the Talbot family; two of Jared's children married two of John Hathaway's children.

The monetary amounts for each item are given in ~ pounds-shillings-pence.

The half a share of land in the North Purchase was obtained by Jared on February 11, 1669 from John Cobb. The first division of the North Purchase did not occur until May 12, 1696, so Jared Talbot, Senior never benefited from this half purchase right.

The order of items in the inventory shows the path that John Hathaway and John Hodges took through the Talbot homestead as they made the inventory. They started in a bedroom, went to the kitchen, then to another bedroom, then out to a tool shed or barn, and ended in the barnyard counting the livestock.

November 18, 1686. Widow Sarah Bonded to Administer Jared's Estate.

"Know all men by these presents that wee Sarah Talbutt the relict of Jared Talbutt late of Taunton in New England deceased as pricipall in ye sum of one hundred pounds money & John Richmond & John

Hathaway senior both of said Taunton as sureties in ye sum of fifty pounds apeice of like money are each of us for our selves holden & stand firmly bound & obliged unto the County Court of Bristol in New England & their successors in ye severall respective summes mentioned as before to ye true payment whereof we bind our selves our heires Executors & Administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seales and bearing date of eighteenth of November anno Domini 1686 Anno R.R. Jacobi secundi Anglice Scotia & secundo

The condition of this Obligation is such that if ye above bound Sarah Talbutt Relict as abovesaid shall well and faithfully Administer ye estate of ye said Jared Talbutt deceased according to Law & no wayse imbezzell or make waste of ye same then this present obligation shall be void otherwise to remaine in full force & vertue

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of ye open court by John Richmond and John Hathway (both of their signatures)

Signed sealed & delivered by Sarah Talbutt in open court (The mark S of Sarah Talbutt) " [Bristol County Probates].

COMMENTARY

This document is in the Jared Talbot 1686 probate packet along with the inventory of his estate and also does not appear in the master index at the probate registry.

"anno Jacobi secundi Anglia Scotia & secundo" is Latin and means "in the second year of James II, king of England and Scotland". James II was king of Great Britain from 1685 to 1688. The Latin word for James is Jacob.

A photocopy of this document is on page 36 of this paper. The handwriting of the John Richmond signature and the John Hathaway signature are completely different and neither is like the handwriting of the court clerk who wrote the text of the document. These are clearly the signatures of the people involved. The capital S that Sarah made for her mark on this document is the only writing that I have found actually made by either Jared or Sarah Talbot.

1687 or 1688. Widow Sarah Taxed.

Jarad and "widdow" Talbut are assessed thirteen shillings and eight pence towards the purchase of Mr. Danforth's land [Early Taunton Records 1642-1816, 201].

COMMENTARY

The "widdow" is Sarah (Andrews) Talbot and Jarad is her son, the future Captain Jared Talbot. This entry is on an undated scrap of paper containing a list of names and amounts. Reverend Danforth was called to be Taunton's fourth minister in May 1687 and was ordained in September 1687 [Hurd 1883, 766; Congregational Library].

December 16, 1693. Widow Sarah Witnesses Deed.

Seth Phillips of Little Compton for \$12 sells to Jarit Talbut of Taunton meadowland at Broad Cove in the South Purchase. The deed was witnessed by John Reed, Ephraim Hathaway, and Sarah Talbutt (with her mark which was now a capital S T) [Bristol County Deeds, 3:398].

COMMENTARY

This is the last reference I have found to Jared's widow Sarah in the records. She has not remarried, and was probably living with her oldest son Jared. Sarah died sometime between this date and January 21, 1733/4 when her son Jared requested in his will that gravestones be set up at his parents' graves.

There was no Junior written after Jarit because the first Jared had died and there could have been no confusion as to whom was meant.

January 16, 1733/34. Request for Gravestone over Jared's Grave.

Captain Jared Talbot wrote in his will: "As also it is my will and I doe by these presents order my executor hereafter named to purchase decent grave stones and sett up att ye graves of my xxx father and mother disceased" [Bristol County Probates].

COMMENTARY

The adjective before father is illegible.

In the last item of his will, Captain Jared Talbot appointed his loving son Josiah Talbot executor of his estate. Josiah may not have honored his father's deathbed request. There is absolutely no trace of these gravestones in the Dighton-Taunton area. There are three likely places where Jared and Sarah may have been buried. One is the old Dighton cemetery on Elm Street. Jared owned this land when he died, and what may have started as a small Talbot family plot could have evolved into the precinct graveyard through the generosity of Captain Jared Talbot. Another possibility is the Neck of Land graveyard on Summer Street in Taunton. It is only a few blocks from where Jared's church once stood. This is a very ancient graveyard with four stones before 1700, the oldest being 1687. Philip King, who bought Jared's Pale Brook house and land in 1683, died in 1710 and was buried at Neck of Land "in military form" [Taunton Daily Gazette, July 20, 1899].

A third possibility is the very ancient Walker cemetery (also called the Blake cemetery) 2.5 miles north of Jared's South Purchase home and on the west bank of the Taunton River. This graveyard has the oldest gravestone in Taunton: Elizabeth Walker died August 14, 1678 aged 59. She is buried next to her husband James Walker whose stone is dated 1691. This is a large graveyard with fifty to one hundred very old stones. There are only eight gravestones in all of Taunton dated before 1700: four at the Neck of Land graveyard and four at

the Walker graveyard. None of the gravestone inventories made at the Neck of Land or Walker graveyards has a single Talbot gravestone.

Know all men by these presents that wee Sarah Talbutt the
 Relict of Jared Talbutt late of Taunton in New England
 as principall in y^e sum of one hundred pound money & John
 Richmond & John Hathaway senior both of said Taunton
 as sureties in y^e sum of fifty pound apiece of like money
 are each of us for our selves Rolsen & stand firmly bound
 & obligd unto the County Court of Bristol in New Engl^d
 & their successors in y^e severall respective summes mentiond
 as before to y^e true payment whereof we find our selves our
 heirs Executors & Adminrs firmly by these presents seald
 with our seals and bearing Date y^e eighteenth of November
 anno Domini 1686 Annoq^{ue} R^{egis} Jacobi secundi Anglie
 Scotia &c. secundo

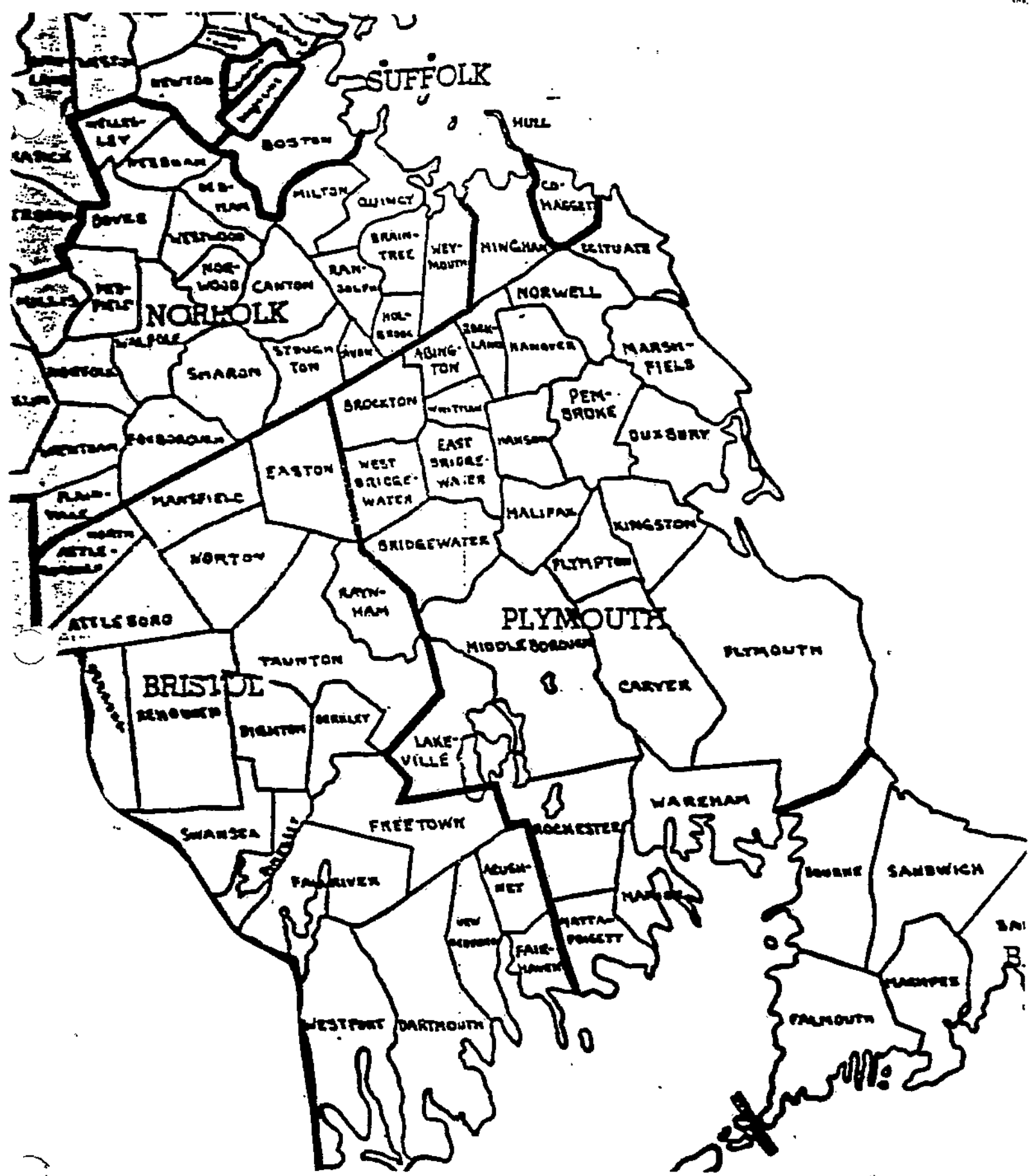
The condition of this Obligation is such that if y^e above
 bound Sarah Talbutt Relict as abovesaid shall well and
 faithfully Administer y^e estate of y^e said Jared Talbutt
 deceased according to Law & no ways in dexte or make
 waste of y^e same then this present Obligation shall be
 void otherwise to remaine in full force & virtue

Signed Sealed & Delivered
 in presence of
 y^e open Court by
 John } Richmond
 Hathaway

The mark of
 Sarah Talbutt
 John Richmond

Signed, sealed & delivered
 by Sarah Talbutt in open court

John Hathaway

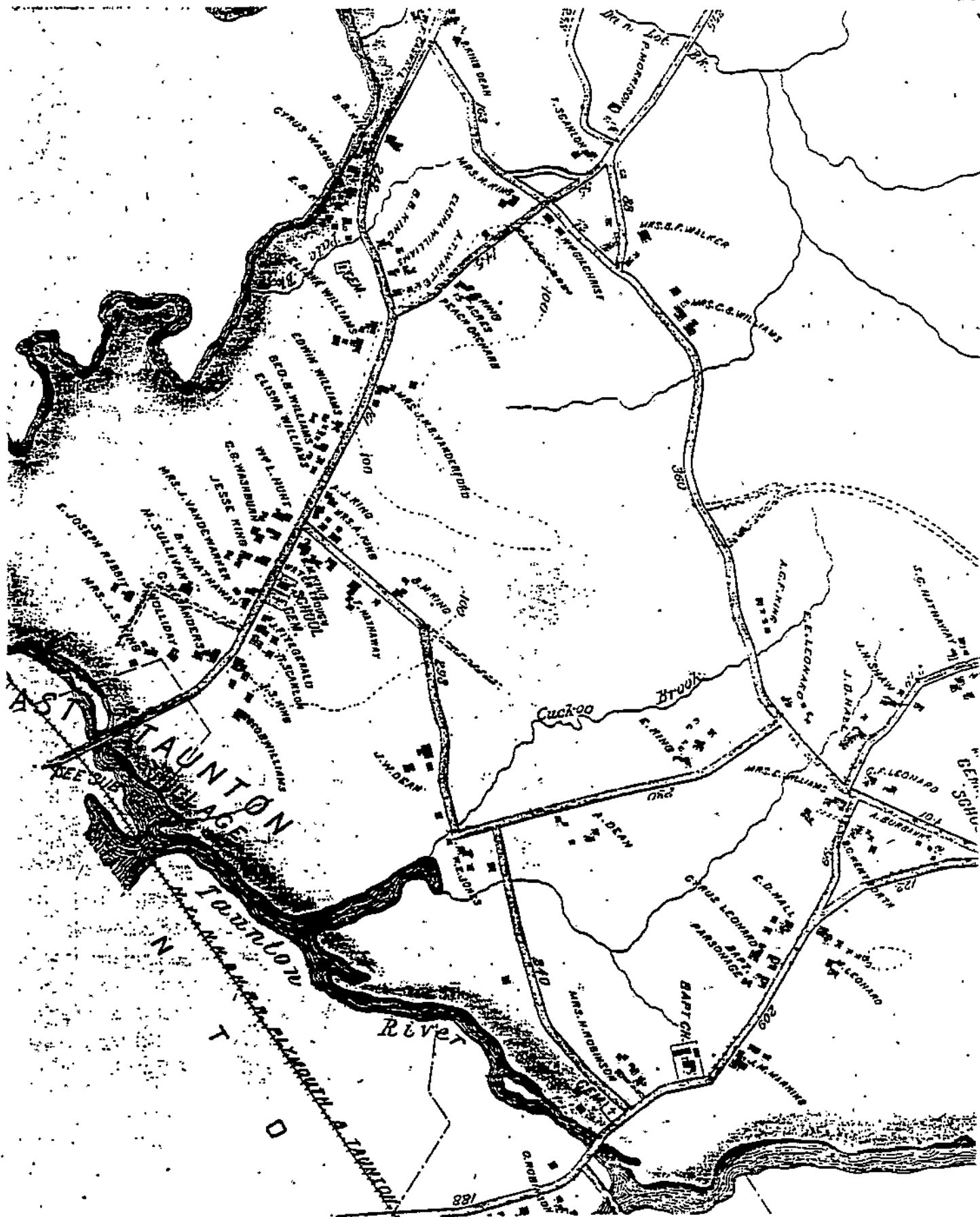


Eastern Massachusetts



SCALE:  1 MILE
 NORTH IS AT THE TOP

USGS Topographical Map of Taunton



SCALE: $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE
 NORTH IS AT THE TOP

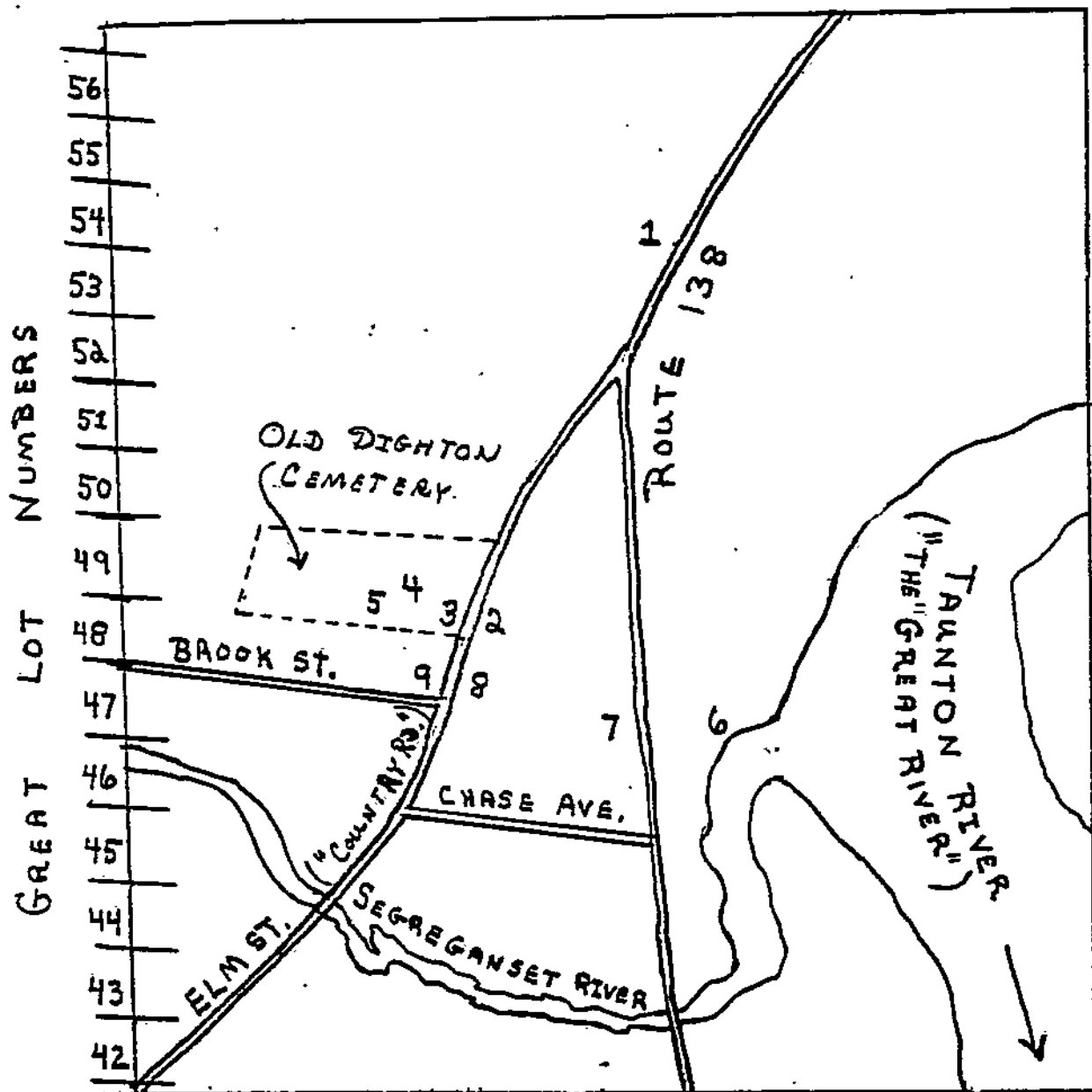
1895 Bristol County Map Showing Pale Brook



SCALE: 1 MILE
NORTH IS AT THE TOP

USGS Topographical Map of Dighton

SCALE: $\frac{1}{4}$ MILE NORTH IS AT THE TOP.



Points of Interest

1. Fisher-Baylies house. Probable site of Jared Talbot, Sr.'s house
2. Site of Captain Jared Talbot's house
3. Talbot historical monument
4. Site of first Dighton meetinghouse
5. Six Talbot gravestones
6. Site of ferryboat landing
7. Site of path from ferryboat landing to "Country Road"
8. Mrs. Goff's house
9. House built by Thomas Baylies Richmond about 1754

Map of Vicinity of Jared Talbot's House in Taunton's South Purchase

OTHER EARLY NEW ENGLAND TALBOTS

There are references in the seventeenth-century New England records to a handful of other Talbots, but there is not a shred of evidence that Jared was related to any of them. A short note on each of these other Talbots follows.

1. Moses Talbot was shot and killed on the Kennebec River in Maine in April 1634. He was shot during a quarrel with John Hocking from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The quarrel involved fishing rights on the Kennebec, and Moses had attempted to cut Hocking's line. [Russell 1855]. No other records on Moses.

2. Peter Talbott was given five acres of land on August 22, 1636 in Plymouth for having completed his period as an indentured servant to Edward Doty [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 1:43]. No further record of Peter.

3. Raph Talbot appeared as a witness in Essex County Court at Salem on December 28, 1643 at a trial in which John Studdley was fined for stealing his master's axe and then selling it to him. [Essex County Quarterly Court Records, 1:59]. No further record of Raph.

4. William Talbut was a mariner on the ship Eagle in October 1648 in Boston when he became sick and was discharged. He became a sailmaker and was accepted as an inhabitant of Boston on July 28, 1651. He had married Cicily Nott September 7, 1635 in Middlesex, England, and they had five children: James, Judith (b. 1652, d. 1655), Mary (b. 1655), Joseph (b. 1657), and Jane. James married Martha Barstow of Charlestown October 14, 1663 and they had three sons: James (b. 1664, m. 1699 Elizabeth Blore, d. 1700 Boston), Joseph (b. 1667), and William (b. 1668).

"On July 30, 1698 John and Mary Indicott and Benjamin and Jane Bagworth, (said Mary and Jane being the only two surviving daughters of William Talbot sailmaker of Boston deceased) for £160 convey to Thos. Burrington their father's homestead on Coney's Lane" [Suffolk County Deeds, 19:108]. From this deed it would seem that the sons of William Talbot and their issue were extinct [Bartlett 1905].

5. Peter Talbot, born in Lancashire, England, was shanghied as a young boy onto a ship bound for New England. Off the coast of Rhode Island, he jumped ship and escaped. On January 12, 1677/8 he married Mary Wadell of Dorchester, widow of John Wadell of Chelmsford. In 1679 they moved to Milton, and then in 1684 moved to Chelmsford where by tradition one of his sons was killed by Indians. His wife Mary died August 29, 1687 and he married on December 29, 1687 Hannah Frizell, widow of William Frizell of Concord, Massachusetts. In 1693 they moved to Milton, and in 1695 to Canton and later to Dorchester where Peter died in 1704. One son, George, survived him and had numerous Talbot descendants in the Stoughton, Milton, Dedham, Canton area of Massachusetts. [Whiting 1855; Bartlett 1905].

6. Lancelot Talbot was a merchant in Boston. On July 22, 1675 he arranged to have a sloop full of merchandise sold in New York [Suffolk County Deeds, 9:390]. On November 22, 1675 he purchased as slaves seven Indians captured in King Philip's War. On October 9, 1677 he was a defendant in an admiralty suit [Bartlett 1905].

7. Christopher Talbot sailed May 11, 1678 from Bristol, England to Boston to be an apprentice for four years [Lea 1901]. In 1686 he was a turner (woodworker) in Boston. He applied for a patent for "an engine usefull for divers trades men as turners ropemakers smiths & all sorts of mills for corne sider sawmills & almost any thing that is to be done by wheels or sails & also hath discovered to make a boat sail against the wind & tide & sundry other things with more ease and expedition then hath been discovered hitherto either in Europe or America" [Massachusetts Archives 128:60]. He was on the Boston tax lists of 1686 and 1687 [Bartlett 1905].

8. Samuel "Talbot" married Priscilla Southworth March 1, 1689 at Bristol, Rhode Island [Arnold 1894, 6:51]. The name Talbot on this marriage record was a mistake made by the clerk. It was Samuel Talbee (sometimes written Talbye) who married Priscilla. Samuel was the son of Stephen and Hannah Talbee and was born in Boston on January 9, 1665. Samuel and Priscilla had a son Stephen Talbee born in Bristol August 26, 1693 and a daughter Hannah Talbee born in Bristol May 23, 1698.

9. Nicholas Talbot, on July 7, 1681, was falsely accused of stealing Robert Ransom's saddle [Plymouth Colony Court Records, 7:239]. This Nicholas may actually have been Nicholas Tarbot of Berwick, Maine who fought in King Philip's War in 1675 [Bartlett 1905]. There was a large group of Tarbots early in Maine, but there is no apparent connection between them and the Talbot family.

SOURCES

- Arnold, James N. 1894. *Vital Records of Rhode Island 1636-1850*. Providence: Naragansett Historical Publishing Company. Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.
- Bartlett, Gardner J. 1905. Emigrants to New England Before 1700 of the Name of Talbot. *Genealogical Magazine* 1:139-144. Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.
- Bowman, John Eliot. "Dighton, Mass. Epitaphs, Site of First Church in Dighton, Copied from Stones August 1914". Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.
- Boyer, Carl 3rd. 1981. *Ancestral Lines*. Newhall, California: Carl Boyer 3rd. Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.
- Bristol County Atlas*. 1895. Copy at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton. Raynham map shows Pale Brook near which Jared Talbot built his house about 1666. A portion of this map is reproduced on page 40.
- Bristol County Deeds*. Registry of Deeds, Taunton, Massachusetts. The early deeds are in the basement.
- Bristol County Map*, 1851. Copy at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton. This is a very large map measuring about six feet square. It is the earliest map to show houses in Dighton.
- Bristol County Probates*. Registry of Probate, Taunton, Massachusetts. Some probates, including those for Jared Talbot, Senior, have inadvertently been omitted from the probate index.
- Chandler, George. 1883. *Chandler Family*. Worcester, Mass.: Charles Hamilton. Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.
- Cobb, Morgan. Map of Taunton, 1728. Copy at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton. This is the earliest map of Taunton showing each dwelling house. The P. King house was probably Jared Talbot's house near Pale Brook. A portion of this map is reproduced on page 41.
- Congregational Library. 14 Beacon Street, Boston. Contains biographical material on early New England ministers.
- Dighton Bicentennial Celebration*. 1912. Taunton, Mass.: C. A. Hack & Son. Copy at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton. Contains photographs and biographical sketches of many early Dighton residents.
- Dighton Town Records. Original records are at the Dighton Town

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Clerk's Office. They contain the town meeting minutes. There were generally two town meetings each year. The spring meeting elected town officers, and the fall meeting appropriated funds for the previous year's town expenses. The constable collected the funds, gave them to the treasurer who then disbursed them.

Dighton Vital Records. The original records are at the Dighton Town Clerk's Office. A Microfiche copy is at the Boston Public Library. Louis Carr of Dighton alphabetized the vital records and these copies are at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, and at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Dyer, Dr. Ebenezer Alden and Allen, Hon. James Sidney. 1911. *Ancestry of William Dyer. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 65:189-91.

Emery, Samuel Hopkins et al. 1889. *Quarter Millennial Celebration of the City of Taunton, Massachusetts, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 4 and 5, 1889*. Taunton:Taunton City Government. Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Emery, Samuel Hopkins, D. D. 1893. *History of Taunton, Massachusetts*. 1893. Syracuse, New York: D.Mason & Co. Copy at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, Mass.

Essex County Quarterly Court Records. These records have been printed in *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County Massachusetts* by the Essex County Institute. Salem:Newcombe & Gauss. 1911. Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Federal Census Records. Census records are on microfilm at several regional branches of the Federal Archives. The Northeast Branch is in Waltham, Mass.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. 1883. *The History of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co. Copies at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, and at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Jones, Melvin E. 1934. *Jones, Hathaway, Richards, Gooding Genealogy*. Boston: Melvin E. Jones. Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

King Pamphlet. A description of the King family reunion can be found in the pamphlet "Old Colony Historical Society Quarterly Meeting July 20, 1899, Commemorative of Philip King 1645-1710". A copy of this pamphlet is in an envelope marked VK 58-2 at the Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton.

Lane, Helen Holmes. 1962. *History of Dighton Massachusetts*. Dighton: Town of Dighton. Copy at the Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, Mass. It has a foldout map showing the location of forty-three Dighton Cemeteries. Helen Lane was a lifelong Dighton

resident and was Dighton Town Historian for many years. She died in 1986 aged ninety-seven.

Lea, J. Henry, Esq. 1901. *Genealogical Gleanings Among the English Archives. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 55:331-341.

Leonard, Thomas, Record Book. This book lists the marriages performed by Thomas Leonard, Justice of the Peace, from 1684 to 1713. Original at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton.

Massachusetts Archives. Located at Columbia Point, South Boston. Has legislative records, military records, and vital records (prior to 1895).

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (NEHGR). A publication of The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. The first volume was published in 1847.

Plymouth Colony Court Records. Original records are at the Plymouth County Commissioner's Office, Plymouth, Mass. The records have been printed in various works including *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, 1855-7. Volumes I to VI of Shurtleff contain the Orders of the General Court. Volume VII contains the Judicial Acts of the General Court. The Judicial Acts generally involved minor offences brought by one individual against another unlike the Plymouth Colony Court Orders that involved cases brought by the government against an individual. Volume and page numbers in the text refer to Shurtleff, not the original records. Printed copies of the court records are at numerous research libraries including The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Plymouth Colony Records. The original records are at the County Commissioner's Office, Plymouth, Mass. These are vital records that the town clerks of each town reported to the General Court at Plymouth. These records have been collected and printed in *Plymouth Colony Records, Miscellaneous Records*, edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, 1857. Page numbers in the text refer to Shurtleff, not the original records. A copy of Shurtleff is at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Reed, Deacon Edgar H. "Complete list of the Inscriptions on the Grave Stones in the Richmond Burying Ground in Dighton previous to 1800". Original at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, Mass. The old Dighton cemetery on Elm Street was sometimes called the Richmond Burying Ground because Colonel Ezra Richmond lived across the street and his son Thomas B. Richmond lived adjacent to it directly to the south. This inventory is undated, but since Reed lived from 1814 to 1893, it may have been made about 1880.

Richmond, Joshua Bailey. 1897. *Richmond Family*. Boston: Joshua Bailey Richmond. Copy at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, Mass.

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Russell, A. L. 1855. Affray at Kennebeck, 1634. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 9:80.

Seaver, James Edward. A longtime Taunton resident and historian. His notes "Genealogical Data Compiled by James E. Seaver" are very useful. They are at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, along with his map showing where historical events occurred in Taunton. Part of this map is reproduced on page 42 of this paper.

Shipton, Clifford K. 1937. *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Copies at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, and at the Boston Public Library.

South Purchase Proprietors Records. Original records at the Dighton Town Clerk's Office. Copy at the Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Taunton, Mass. The entire set of records can be read in a few hours.

Sprague, Waldo C. "Old Cemetery at Site of First Church, Elm St. at Brook St., Dighton, Mass., Copied July 25, 1957". Copy at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Suffolk County Deeds. Original records at the Registry of Deeds, Boston. Printed copies are at various research libraries. The library at The New England Historic Genealogical Society has printed copies of volumes one to fourteen.

Taunton Daily Gazette. The back issues of this newspaper are on microfilm at the Boston Public Library. The Old Colony Historical Society in Taunton has some back issues.

Taunton Records 1642-1816. Original records at City Clerk's Office, Taunton City Hall. This large, red, leather-bound volume contains mostly undated scraps of paper, many of which were probably tax lists.

Taunton Proprietors Records. Original records at City Clerk's Office, Taunton City Hall. In volumes one and four, there are two different sets of page numbers, each starting from one end of the volume. A copy made in 1869 is at the Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Taunton.

Taunton Vital Records. The original vital records for Taunton were destroyed in the 1838 fire. Vital records prior to 1850 have been gleaned from various sources such as proprietors records, gravestones, court records, and church records and published in three volumes. These volumes are at many research locations including The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, and The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Torrey, Clarence Almon. 1985. *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. Copy at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Varley, Elaine B. A prominent Dighton resident, genealogist, and historian for many years. She has an index card file with gravestone inscriptions for the forty-six known Dighton graveyards. The Dighton Historical Society has a copy of this card file.

Versailles, Elizabeth Starr. 1970. *Hathaways of America*. Northampton, Mass.: Gazette Printing Co., Inc. Copies at The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton and at The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

Whiting, Caroline. 1855. Peter Talbot and his Descendants. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 9:129-30.